

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 H-03 IO-14 AID-20 JUSE-00

AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

NSC-07 SCI-06 DRC-01 /100 W
----- 008801

R 020800Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2900

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7128

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - CONGRESSIONAL QUERY; FIGURES FOR THE RECORD
ON REDUCTION OF OPIUM POPPY ACREAGE IN THAILAND

REF: STATE 78215

1. REGRET WE CANNOT PROVIDE FIGURES ON REDUCTION OF OPIUM POPPY ACREAGE IN THAILAND. AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON OPIUM POPPY ACREAGE IS INCOMPLETE. EXISTING CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS (STILL LARGELY EXPERIMENTAL) HAVE NOT BEEN IN EFFECT LONG ENOUGH OR EXPANDED TO A SUFFICIENTLY WIDE AREA TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON OPIUM PRODUCTION.

2. DURING THE 73/74 CROP YEAR, THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNPDAC) DISTRIBUTED 30 TONS OF BEANS TO ABOUT 30 OUT OF MORE THAN 1,000 ESTIMATED OPIUM GROWING VILLAGES IN NORTH THAILAND. SOME VILLAGERS PLANTED THE BEANS TOGETHER WITH OPIUM BUT OTHERS APPARENTLY PLANTED BEANS IN FIELDS THAT OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN OPIUM. AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI ESTIMATES THAT THE RESULT MAY HAVE BEEN AN AVERAGE REDUCTION FOR NORTH THAILAND OF LESS THAN ONE PERCENT.

3. THIS ESTIMATE DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INCREASES OR DECREASES IN OPIUM ACREAGE THAT MAY HAVE OCCURRED IN OTHER VILLAGES
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BECAUSE OF FLUCTUATIONS IN WEATHER, SOIL OR MARKET CONDITIONS

AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE ARE NOW URGENTLY DEVELOPING
WITH RTG PROGRAMS TO SPEED UP THIS PROCESS.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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